

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Infectious Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Center for Sexually Transmitted Infection Prevention

DID YOU KNOW?

EPT is permissible in 37 states. Beginning June 1, 2015, EPT for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea became a legally permissible practice in Maryland.

EPT is endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; American Medical Association; American Bar Association; Society of Adolescent Medicine; and many other national organizations.

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea are the two most commonly reported infectious diseases nationwide and in Maryland.

Racial disparity is higher for Gonorrhea than for any other reportable disease nationwide.

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea cause increased susceptibility to, and facilitate transmission of, HIV.

Untreated, Chlamydia and Gonorrhea may cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) in an estimated 10%–20% of women.

Repeat infections of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea significantly increase the risk of serious health consequences.

Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)

What is EPT?

- EPT is the practice of treating the sex partners of persons with sexually transmitted infections (STIs) without an intervening medical evaluation. The usual implementation of EPT is through patient-delivered medications or prescriptions to their partners.
- The gold standard for partner management is still direct clinical assessment and treatment.
- EPT is not intended to replace traditional partner notification and management. It can be a valuable option, though, for bringing therapy to partners who are unlikely or unable to seek medical care.

Infections Treatable Through EPT

- An infection that is treatable via oral medication.
- There is clear indication at this time for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea; a few states address Chlamydia only; some include a broad range of STIs; some include a broad range of infectious diseases.

Possible Benefits of EPT

- Opportunity for addressing “missed opportunities” for treatment
- Reduced re-infection rates of index patient
- Increased rates of partner notification
- Increased rates of partner treatment
- Opportunity for addressing health disparities

EPT information adapted from CDC, including Expedited partner therapy in the control of sexually transmitted diseases. 2006. Available on the CDC’s EPT web site: www.cdc.gov/std/ept.

For information on EPT in Maryland, go to:
<http://tinyurl.com/EPTMaryland>.